

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 0151

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR:U.S. BACKGROUND PAPER ON AIR MANPOWER

REF: (A) USNATO 7008; (B) STATE 263866

1. AT JANUARY 14 WG MEETING, FRG REP (DZIALAS) AND NETHERLANDS REP (VAN DER GRAAF) PRESENTED COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS (TRANSMITTED BELOW) ON US AIR MANPOWER PAPER (REF B). ACTION REQUESTED: BY JANUARY 28, BRIEF RESPONSES TO FRG AND NETHERLANDS QUESTIONS AS WELL AS TO UK QUESTIONS TRANSMITTED REF A.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF FRG REMARKS AND QUESTIONS.

1. CONCERNING PART I B (2)

WE WOULD SEE A CONTRADICTION IN THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES ON THE ONE HAND SHARE OUR VIEW TO CONCENTRATE ON GROUND FORCES AS REGARDS TO REDUCTIONS, BUT SEEM TO BE  
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PREPARED ON THE OTHER SIDE TO OFFER A REDUCTION IN AIR MANPOWER OF UP TO 15 PERCENT.

THIS PERCENTAGE WOULD CORRESPOND WITH THE PROPOSED REDUCTIONS

OF US GROUND FORCES IN THE FIRST PHASE. THERE IS A DANGER THAT THE EAST WOULD INTERPRETE THIS AS OUR PREPAREDNESS TO ACCEPT THE "COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH" OF THE WARSAW PACT.

IN ADDITION WE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THE TOTAL RATIO OF REDUCTIONS SHOULD NOT EXCEED APPROXIMATELY 10 PCT IN TOTAL STATION, EA OR 10 PCT IN TOTAL INDIGENOUS MANPOWER IN THE NGA (SEE PARA 12 OF C-M(73)83(FINAL)).

2. CONCERNING PART II A

THE AMERICAN PROPOSAL SUGGESTS IN PART I B (3) THAT A REDUCTION OF AIR FORCE PERSONNEL WOULD RESULT IN A LIMITATION FOR THE CAPABILITY FOR MODERNISATION OF THE WP AIR FORCES. ON THE OTHER HAND IT IS SUGGESTED FOR THE WESTERN AIR FORCES THAT THE RATIO PERSONNEL/AIRCRAFT FOR FUTURE WEAPON SYSTEMS WILL EVEN IMPROVE. AS A REASONING FOR THIS THESIS THE NUMBER OF

PERSONNEL FOR DIFFERENT WEAPON SYSTEMS AND AN IMPROVEMENT OF THE RATIO OF MAINTENANCE VERSUS FLYING HOURS ARE GIVEN. IT IS, HOWEVER, NOT MENTIONED THAT FUTURE WEAPON SYSTEMS MIGHT REQUIRE MORE PERSONNEL FOR AIR CREWS AND MORE GROUND PERSONNEL, I.E. LOADING TEAMS ON ACCOUNT OF INCREASED CARRYING CAPABILITIES. THIS QUESTION NEEDS FURTHER AND CAREFUL STUDY.

3. CONCERNING PART III C

A) WE DOUBT THAT THE USA CAN REDUCE 15 PCT OF THEIR AIR FORCE PERSONNEL IN THE NGA WITHOUT ALSO REDUCING WEAPON SYSTEMS, I.E. AIRCRAFT. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE USA COULD CLARIFY WHETHER BY "US COMBAT AIRCRAFT LEVELS" THE ASSIGNMENT STRENGTHS OF US UNITS IS MEANT, WHICH WILL BE MAINTAINED, WEREAS THE OPERATIONAL AVAILABILITY OF AIRCRAFT WILL BE REDUCED.

B) AS REGARDS TO THE EXAMPLES FOR A REDUCTION OF US AIR MANPOWER OF 5, 10 AND 15 PERCENT WE WOULD LIKE TO STATE THE FOLLOWING.

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AA) WE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT WE AND OTHER PARTNERS IN THE ALLIANCE WOULD CONSIDER THE ASSUMPTION OF A USABLE WARNING TIME OF AT LEAST 23 DAYS, ON WHICH THE US PROPOSAL IS BASED, AS UNREALISTIC AND DANGEROUS.

BB) WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE TERM "CIVILIANIZATION OF BASE OPERATION SUPPORT FUNCTIONS". THE EMPLOYMENT OF CIVILIAN PERSONNEL COULD BE VIEWED AS A CIRCUMVENTION. WE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHICH REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NON-US PARTNERS IN THE ALLIANCE WOULD ARISE FROM SUCH CIVILIANIZATION.

CC) WE WOULD BE ALSO GREATFUL FOR A REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING

QUESTIONS:

- WHICH CONSEQUENCES WOULD ARISE FROM A REDUCTION OF  
"SUPPORT UNITS"

- WHICH REQUIREMENTS WOULD ARISE FROM THE REDUCTION  
OF "COMMUNICATIONS-ELECTRONICS ELEMENTS" FOR THE  
NON-US PARTNERS IN THE ALLIANCE

- WHAT WOULD BE THE AFFECTS OF A REDUCTION IN "UNCON-  
VENTIONAL WARE FARE CAPABILITY"; WHICH GAPS WOULD  
ARISE FROM SUCH REDUCTIONS?  
END TEXT

BEGIN TEXT OF NETHERLANDS QUESTIONS:

- WAHT ARE US VIEWS ON SOVIET MAN-TO-AIRCRAFT RATIO?

- HOW DOES THE US SEE THE MATTER OF VERIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO AIR?

- THE US SEES A "CIVILIANIZATION" OF CERTAIN SUPPORT FUNCTIONS.  
IT IS KNOWN THAT CERTAIN MAINTENANCE FUNCTIONS IN GDR ARE PERFORMED  
BY SOVIET DEMOBILISED PERSONNEL PRESENTLY. WHAT IMPLICATIONS ARE  
SEEN IN THIS CONTEXT WITH REGARD TO CIRCUMVENTION?

- ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY (I.E. INCREASED COMBAT RADII AND WEAPONLOADS)  
PERMITS OPERATION FROM AREAS PERIPHERIAL TO NGA. WHAT MEASURES ARE  
CONTEMPLATED TO OFFSET THE ADVANTAGES OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL PROXIMETY  
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OF SOVIET UNION? END TEXT.BRUC

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